

**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide having consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) — an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (b) — an amino acid sequence of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;
  - (c) — an amino acid sequence of an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said ortholog is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3; and
  - (d) — a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids.
  
2. (Currently Amended) An isolated peptide comprising protease having an amino acid sequence comprising selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) — an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (b) — an amino acid sequence of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;
  - (c) — an amino acid sequence of an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said ortholog is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3; and
  - (d) — a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids.

Claims 3-23. (Withdrawn)

Claims 20-21. (Canceled)

22. (Withdrawn)

23. (Withdrawn)

24. (New) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 and a carrier.

25. (New) A composition comprising the protease of claim 2 and a carrier.

26. (New) An isolated protease consisting of an amino acid sequence having at least 99% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

27. (New) A composition comprising the protease of claim 26 and a carrier.